

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant United States Attorney Bruce Smith (619) 557-6963

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - August 24, 2006

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that Antonio Pina and Jose Guadalupe Hernandez-Valdez were sentenced in federal court in San Diego by United States District Judge Napoleon A. Jones, Jr. for alien smuggling offenses. Judge Jones sentenced each defendant to serve three years in custody and a three-year term of supervised release following his release from federal prison.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Smith, who handled the sentencing hearing, both defendants pled guilty on May 22, 2006, to two counts of alien smuggling for financial gain. In connection with his plea, Pina admitted that on January 31, 2006, while on duty as a Master-At-Arms with the United States Navy Shore Patrol at the Old Port Building, located adjacent to the San Ysidro, California Port of Entry, he led six undocumented aliens into the United States with the expectation of receiving part of the \$3000 paid by each of the aliens to be smuggled into the United States. Hernandez-Valdez similarly admitted that on January 31, 2006, while he was an off-duty member of the United States Navy, he participated in the

smuggling in return for payment of part of the smuggling fees. As part of his plea, Hernandez-Valdez, who is a citizen of Mexico and a resident alien, agreed to appear before an Immigration Judge and to stipulate to the entry of an order of deportation following his prison term.

DEFENDANTS

Case Number: 06cr0228-J

Antonio Pina

Jose Guadalupe Hernandez-valdez

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Bringing In Illegal Alien Resulting For Private Financial Gain or Commercial Advantage in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii) and Aiding and Abetting

AGENCIES

Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection
Naval Criminal Investigative Service